

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 OPIC-03 AGRE-00 EB-07
COME-00 FRB-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EPG-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IGA-02 IO-13
ACDA-07 MCT-01 EUR-12 /114 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK:IW
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH
D/HA:MSCHNEIDER (INFO)
AID/FFP:GFRAZIER (INFO)
EUR/SOV:JGLASSMAN (INFO)
DOD/ISA:WMOORE (INFO)
AF/EPSESEGALL (INFO)
OPIC/VPID:HZOLA (INFO)
USDA/OGSM:HKOELLER (INFO)
-----021908Z 038113 /42
R 021513Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2, 3

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PINT, SHUM, GV

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH GUINEAN AMBASSADOR - PL-480,
HUMAN RIGHTS, SOVIET FLIGHTS

REF: A) CONAKRY 837 B) CONAKRY 841

1. AMBASSADOR KOUROUMA CALLED ON AF/W DIRECTOR MAY 27.
COUNTRY OFFICER AND DCM CONAKRY WERE ALSO PRESENT. AF/W
DIRECTOR SUMMARIZED HIS VISIT TO CONAKRY ALONG LINES
REFTEL A. HE TOLD AMBASSADOR KOUROUMA THAT HE EXPECTED TO
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HAVE AN ANSWER FOR HIM SOON REGARDING SANGARE'S VISIT.
HE EMPHASIZED THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER ANY GUINEAN REQUEST
FOR ECONOMIC OR PL-480 ASSISTANCE IN THE LIGHT OF GUINEAN
ACTIONS AFFECTING U.S. INTERESTS.

2. AF/W DIRECTOR ASKED KOUROUMA IF RUMORS ABOUT AN AMNES-
TY FOR PRISONERS ON THE OCCASION OF THE MAY 14 GUINEA

DEMOCRATIC PARTY ANNIVERSARY WERE TRUE (REF B). KOUROUMA SAID THAT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN, BUT THOUGHT THAT SOME 20 POLITICAL PRISONERS HAD BEEN RELEASED ON MAY 14. HE NOTED THAT SMALL NUMBERS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE RELEASED IN A VERY DISCREET MANNER FROM TIME TO TIME. THERE IS NO PUBLICITY ABOUT SUCH RELEASES. HE SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF CONDITIONS IN GUINEAN PRISONS BECAUSE HE HAD DEALT

WITH THIS AS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND AS THE CHIEF OF ALIMAG WHICH PROVIDED FOOD FOR THE PRISONS. HE STATED THAT PRISONERS RECEIVED MORE AND A GREATER VARIETY OF FOOD THAN ORDINARY CITIZENS. ASKED HOW MANY PRISONERS THERE WERE, KOUROUMA REPLIED THAT HE HAD ONLY SENT BULK FOOD SHIPMENTS AND DID NOT HAVE RATION RECORDS. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THE PRISONERS WERE NOT ILL TREATED.

3. KOUROUMA STATED THAT MANY PRISONERS DATING FROM THE PERIOD AFTER THE 1970 PORTUGUESE INVASION HAD BEEN RE-LEASED. HE CITED LABOR LEADER CAMARA OUMARDEEN (PHONETIC). ASKED ABOUT ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PRISONER AMNESTIES IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, KOUROUMA REPLIED THAT SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE LIMITED TO COMMON LAW PRISONERS. RELEASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE NOT PUBLICIZED.

4. KOUROUMA RECOUNTED A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH A FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO GUINEA (MCILVAINE) WHO HAD GONE TO SEE HIM TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUINEA AND THE FATE OF FORMER GUINEAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON BANGOURA. KOUROUMA TOLD HIM THAT GUINEA IS A SOVEREIGN CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY AND THAT IT DID NOT HAVE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE ACTIONS IT TAKES IN ITS INTERESTS. KOUROUMA EMPHASIZED THAT ONE HAD TO UNDERSTAND THE STORIES OF POLITICAL PLOTS IN GUINEA WERE TRUE. HE GAVE AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE NOVEMBER 22, 1970 PORTUGUESE INVASION. HE CONCLUDED THAT IF ONE DOESN'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED THEN, THERE IS NO SENSE IN TALKING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUINEA NOW. GUINEA HAS TO CONDUCT A POLICY IN CONFORMITY WITH ITS OWN INTEREST.

5. KOUROUMA SAID THAT BANGOURA HAD MUCH PRESTIGE AND HAD BECOME MINISTER OF TRANSPORT WHEN HE CAME BACK TO GUINEA FROM THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID BANGOURA WAS OPPOSED TO SEKOU TOURE'S RDA PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE BECAUSE BANGOURA WAS A TRIBAL CHIEF. EVEN BEFORE IT BECAME THE GUINEAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE RDA SET ABOUT ELIMINATING THE TRADITIONAL RULERS BECAUSE THE CHIEFS HAD BEEN USED BY THE COLONIAL POWER TO OPPRESS THE PEOPLE. BANGOURA AND OTHERS LIKE HIM HAD SUPPORTED DE GAULLE'S OPTION FOR

ASSOCIATION WITH THE FRENCH. AFTER THE NOVEMBER 22 IN-
VASION SEVERAL MERCENARIES UNDER INTERROGATION LINKED
BANGOURA WITH THEIR ORGANIZATION.

6. KOUROUMA THEN NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH MANY POLITICAL
PRISONERS HAD BEEN RELEASED GUINEA WAS STILL MENACED BY
ITS NEIGHBORS. HE STATED THAT THE JULY 1976 ARRESTS
FOCUSED ON PEOPLE WHO WERE COOPERATING WITH EXILES OUTSIDE
OF GUINEA IN A PLOT TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT.

7. IN CLOSING WE SAID WE HOPED TO HAVE A RESPONSE RE-
GARDING SANGARE'S PROPOSED VISIT SOON. WE INQUIRED IF IT
WERE NECESSARY TO HAVE A TECHNICAL DELEGATION TO IMPLEMENT
THE AGREEMENT, GIVEN KOUROUMA'S EXPERTISE IN THIS AREA.
KOUROUMA SAID IT WAS NECESSARY, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE DELE-
GATION WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLICIZING THE RESULTING
BENEFITS OF COOPERATION WITH THE US IN GUINEA. KOUROUMA
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SAID HE WAS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING GUINEA'S PERFORMANCE
IN THIS RESPECT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BSKIRKPATRICK:IW
Enclosure: DUAL DC X3
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770197-0049
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770697/aaaadhbz.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Secure: OPEN
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To: CONAKRY
Type: TE
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